

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 134825

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, MO

SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS ON POST-INVASION REFORM IN
ZAIRE

REF: RABAT 2936

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA, SECRETARY
ASSURED HIM OF OUR CONTINUED CONCERN TO ASSIST ZAIRE
ECONOMICALLY AND MILITARILY, BUT HE DID NOT
SPECIFICALLY RAISE QUESTION OF REFORM. WE NEVERTHELESS
PROPOSE TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH ZAIRIANS AT
APPROPRIATE MOMENT IN SOME DETAIL, AND WOULD WELCOME
PARALLEL APPROACH BY MOROCCANS TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU.

2. EMBASSY MAY THEREFORE CONVEY FOLLOWING POINTS TO
KING HASSAN OR OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL IN CONNECTION
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WITH UPCOMING DISCUSSIONS WITH MOBUTU.

-- UNLESS WE CAN ASSIST ZAIRE TO OVERCOME ITS SERIOUS
INTERNAL WEAKNESS, CONTINUED INSTABILITY WILL REMAIN
AN INVITATION FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SUBVERSION.

-- WE HOPE OUR ALLIES WILL JOIN US IN ENCOURAGING

PRESIDENT MOBUTU TO MAKE NEEDED REFORMS, IN PARTICULAR
TO CARRY OUT THE DIFFICULT IMF STABILIZATION PROGRAM,

DEVOTING AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO PRIORITY SECTORS LIKE
AGRICULTURE AND INFRASTRUCTURE RATHER THAN PRESTIGE
PROJECTS.

-- WE MUST RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT IMF AUSTERITY
PROGRAM WILL TEND IN SHORT TERM, TO INCREASE THE
UNPOPULARITY OF MOBUTU REGIME. ZAIRE'S ALLIES NEED
TO FIND WAYS, THEREFORE, TO LIGHTEN THE IMPACT OF THE
PROGRAM ON THE POPULATION, E.G., BY FACILIATING
DELIVERY OF ESSENTIAL FOOD AND OTHER COMMODITIES.

-- ON THE MILITARY SIDE, WE ARE PLEASED BY WHAT WE
HEAR OF PLANS TO REORGANIZE THE ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES,
WITH FRENCH AND BELGIAN ASSISTANCE, AND WE SHALL ASSIST
IN THIS MODERNIZATION EFFORT.

-- AS A GENERAL APPROACH, WE WILL BE WATCHING ZAIRE'S
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE CLOSELY NOTABLY ITS IMPLEMENTATION
OF IMF STABILIZATION AGREEMENT, IN DETERMINING
LEVELS AND NATURE OF OUR OWN FUTURE AID; WE PLAN TO
MAKE THIS CLEAR TO MOBUTU. WE BELIEVE THAT, ONLY
THROUGH SYSTEMATIC, PARALLEL APPROACHES BY ZAIRE'S
PRINCIPAL FRIENDS, WILL MOBUTU BE PERSUADED TO MAKE
SIGNIFICANT REFORMS IN HIS PRESENT VICTORY MOOD. VANCE

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